

JAN 27 2005

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January 27, 2005

TO: Consumers, Families, Guardians and Staff of Bellefontaine Habilitation Center

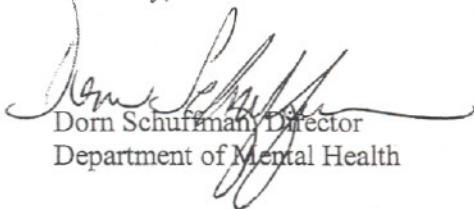
Last night, Governor Blunt announced in the State of the State address that he is recommending that Bellefontaine Habilitation Center (BHC) be closed. This recommendation will naturally be of concern to you. Undoubtedly, this recommendation will receive substantial discussion during the legislative session, and there are many issues that need to be explored before a definitive plan can be formulated to implement the Governor's recommendation.

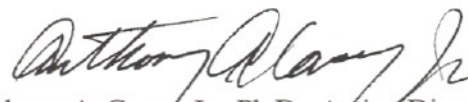
As the discussion unfolds, we wanted to assure you that we are committed to implementing any changes to the current Habilitation Center Five Year Plan in a manner that assures that consumers and their families do not experience any disruption in service, receive the level of services and supports they require, continue to live in residences that meet or exceed the quality of their current living situation, and remain as close to families as possible.

Of course, we value the service that our employees provide at BHC and as we implement the Five Year Plan, we will assure that our employees have access to all opportunities offered under the Merit System. We will also explore possibilities for employees to transition to community providers if the consumers they serve move to community settings.

We will be scheduling meetings with BHC consumers, their families, guardians, and facility staff as soon as we have more information which may be helpful in understanding the Governor's recommendation.

Sincerely,


Dorn Schuffman, Director
Department of Mental Health


Anthony A. Casey, Jr., Ph.D., Acting Director
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